

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

We need to increase federal regulation of television. I do not mean that we should fine companies for showing the world a breast. We all have them or have seen them before. They are not that frightening. What I mean by increasing regulation concerns activities such as showing an extended political attack ad as news. This is what Sinclair is doing.

We also need to return to the monopoly busting days of America's past. A very small number of companies control all of what travels across the nation's airwaves, and it would appear that the FCC works for them. Monopolies are un-American as are those who support them. It is time for the United States government to clean itself of corporate corruption, and crawl out of the pockets of big business. The FCC has an opportunity to lead the nation by example. I hope that they have the courage to do so.

Thank you.